enhance quota of edible oil of Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (f) Supply of imported palmolein through the Public Distribution System (PDS) is supplemental and is meant to augment open market availability during the lean season/festival period. Unlike other PDS commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, palmolein is not issued on an entitlement basis. Taking into account the fact that most of the edible oils are under the OGL list for import, and the resultant easy availability of oil in the market with stable price, Government decided to import a limited quantity of palmolein during the period February to October, 1996. The States were requested to indicate their requirement and allocation was made within the total quantity imported namely 2.02 lakh MTs.

Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested for 1,80,000 MTs of imported palmolein for the PDS during the year 1996 against which an allocation of 63,000 MTs was made to the State out of the total imported quantity of palmolein of 2.02 lakh MTs.

The allocation of imported edible oil through PDS is based on various factors like total import for Central Pool, inter-se requirements of States/UTs, past lifting, open market availability and prices. These factors are likely to continue to determine the quota of edible oil released to States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh whenever imports are made in future.

Non-Lifting of allocated Food-Grains quota by Bihar

4475. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar is not lifting its entire quota of foodgrains allocated to it for PDS resulting in scarcity of foodgrains and other rationed items at fair price shops;

(b) if so, the details of wheat, rice, sugar and other essential commodities allocated to Bihar during the last three years, year-wise and the quantities actually lifted by the State during the said period; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that PDS in Bihar does not suffer due to the apathy of the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The allocations made to Government of Bihar and lifting made by them during the last three years, year-wise and commodity-wise are given in the statement enclosed. (*see* below). It may be observed from the statement that lifting is less than the allocations made. Primary factors of non-lifting of foodgrains by Bihar are easy availability, lower prices in the open market and good foodgrain production in the State during 1994-95. Government of India have decided to streamline the PDS with its focus on the poor by issuing special cards to families below poverty line and selling foodgrains under PDS to them at specially subsidised prices with better monitoring of delivery system. Guidelines containing the details for Targeted PDS have already been issued to all States/UTs including Bihar in this regard. These guidelines were laid on the floor of both

the Houses on 24.2.1997.

Statement

Allocation & Lifting of Wheat, Rice, Edible Oil, Kerosene & Sugar through PDS in Bihar

(in '000 tonnes)

Year	Wheat		Rice		Sugar		Kerosene		Edible Oil	
	A	L	A	L	A	L*	A	L	A	L
1994-95	714.00	222.40	372.00	39.50		407.87	558.44	557.70	Nil	Nil
1995-96	705.60	227.20	381.60	23.50		426.81	606.96	606.48	0.20	Nil
1996-97	697.60	438.70	389.60	37.60		464.12	652.96	597.79	0.70	Nil

*—Lifting is assumed to 100%
A—Allocation
L—Lifting

Setting up of Consumer Courts in rural areas

4476. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Consumer Courts have been set up in rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, District-wise/State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the necessary steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this respect;

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (d) According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 there should be a District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum in each District. The State Government may, if it deems fit, establish more than one District Forum in a District. The responsibility of setting up of the District Forum lies with the States/UTs. According to the State Consumer Protection Rules, District Forum is to be located at the Headquarters of the District or at such place as may be notified by the State Government. Where State Government decides to establish a single District Forum having jurisdiction over more than one District, it shall notify the place and jurisdiction of District Forum so established. Similarly a State Commission, in each State/UT, may be located at State Capital or at such place as may be notified by the State Government.

The location of State Commission and number of District Fora State-wise is given the statement.